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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2766
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 26262

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E.O. 12356: N/A

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SUBJECT: THE UK: 1988 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 357278

¶1. OUR SUBMISSION FOR THE UK PORTION OF THE 1988 ANNUAL REPORT OF PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM BEGINS AT PARAGRAPH 2. DEPARTMENT DRAFTERS SHOULD NOTE THAT AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, HMG IS WARNING THE PUBLIC THAT THE IRA APPARENTLY IS PLANNING A MAJOR BOMBING CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND POSSIBLY ALSO IN BRITAIN, BEFORE THE END OF 1988. IF SUCH A CAMPAIGN TAKES PLACE, OUR SUBMISSION MIGHT REQUIRE A YEAR-END UPDATE.

BEGIN DRAFT TEXT

MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN IN CY 1988

¶2. IN 1988 THE UK MAINTAINED ITS LONGSTANDING POLICY OF NOT GRANTING CONCESSIONS TO TERRORISTS, DESPITE AN INCREASE IN PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF THREE UK CITIZEN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. UK OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES WORKING AGAINST TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE TREVI GROUP, THE SUMMIT SEVEN, AND GROUPS WITHIN THE UN. THERE IS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION ON COUNTERTERRORISM BETWEEN U.S. AND UK AUTHORITIES. THE UK CONTINUED IN 1988 TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

¶3. IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE UK'S LARGE COMMUNITIES OF IMMIGRANTS, WHICH INCLUDE PALESTINIANS, IRANIANS, IRAQIS, TAMILS, AND OTHERS. UK AUTHORITIES DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS THROUGH NORMAL POLICE AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES AND THROUGH EXCHANGES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO IDENTIFY AND APPREHEND TERRORISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS.

¶4. IN JANUARY, A MAN OF IRAQI ORIGIN WHO WAS KNOWN AS A CRITIC OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT DIED IN LONDON OF POISONING. BEFORE HE DIED, HE TOLD UK AUTHORITIES THAT HE HAD BEEN POISONED AT A DINNER BY SEVERAL OTHER IRAQIS; THE AUTHORITIES CONFIRMED THAT TWO OF THEM HAD BEEN SENT TO BRITAIN BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT. THE CASE IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

¶5. DOMESTIC TERRORISM BY GROUPS INVOLVED IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S SECTARIAN VIOLENCE REMAINED THE MOST COMMON FORM OF TERRORIST INCIDENT DIRECTED AGAINST UK INTERESTS THROUGHOUT 1988. MOST INCIDENTS WERE PERPETRATED BY THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (IRA). IN NORTHERN IRELAND ITSELF 32 MILITARY PERSONNEL, 6 POLICE OFFICERS, AND 53 CIVILIANS DIED IN 1988.

¶6. IN 1988 THE IRA ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF ATTACKS OUTSIDE NORTHERN IRELAND. IN FEBRUARY, BRITISH SECURITY FORCES THWARTED A PLANNED IRA BOMBING OF A PUBLIC SQUARE IN GIBRALTAR, A UK DEPENDENT TERRITORY, AND KILLED THREE OF THE TERRORISTS INVOLVED. SPANISH LEGAL AND POLICE AUTHORITIES GAVE SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO UK OFFICIALS IN THE CASE. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT, HAD THE BOMBING OCCURRED ACCORDING TO THE IRA'S PLANS, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED PERSONS COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MANY

OTHERS INJURED, MOST OF THEM CIVILIAN BYSTANDERS AND TOURISTS.

17. THE IRA MADE OTHER ATTACKS ON BRITISH INTERESTS IN MAINLAND EUROPE DURING 1988. ON MAY 1, THREE OFF-DUTY UK SERVICEMEN WERE MACHINE-GUNNED IN A CAR IN THE NETHERLANDS; ONE DIED. ON THE SAME DAY, A CAR BOMB KILLED TWO RAF MEN AND SERIOUSLY INJURED ONE OTHER, ALSO IN THE NETHERLANDS. ON MAY 5 ANOTHER BOMB ATTACHED TO A UK SERVICEMAN'S CAR IN GERMANY FAILED TO EXPLODE. ON JULY 13 IRA TERRORISTS CUT THROUGH A UK MILITARY BASE PERIMETER FENCE TO PLANT TWO BOMBS WHICH INJURED NINE SOLDIERS. ON AUGUST 5 A BOMB EXPLODED AT A MILITARY BASE IN GERMANY, INJURING THREE UK SERVICEMEN AND ONE GERMAN CIVILIAN. LATER IN THE YEAR, GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARRESTED TWO MEN WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING IRA MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE SEVERAL INCIDENTS DESCRIBED.

18. IN BRITAIN ITSELF, THE IRA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING IN AUGUST OF AN UNGUARDED MILITARY INSTALLATION IN NORTH LONDON. TWO SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND EIGHT OTHERS WERE INJURED IN THE EXPLOSION.

19. ON DECEMBER 6, THE UK PARLIAMENT APPROVED LEGISLATION WHICH STRENGTHENS EXISTING LAWS TO COMBAT TERRORISM. THE LEGISLATION --

-- RENEWED THE 1984 PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT AND MADE IT PERMANENT, SO THAT IT NO LONGER REQUIRES PERIODIC REVIEW AND RENEWAL BY PARLIAMENT;

-- GAVE THE GOVERNMENT NEW POWERS TO SEIZE FUNDS DESTINED FOR TERRORISTS, TO COMBAT RACKETEERING AS A MEANS OF RAISING FUNDS BY TERRORIST GROUPS, AND TO PREVENT THE "LAUNDERING" OF MONEY INTENDED FOR TERRORIST GROUPS;

-- REAFFIRMED THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BAN CERTAIN PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND FROM ENTERING OTHER AREAS OF THE UK;

-- RENEWED THE PROSCRIPTION IN THE UK OF TWO TERRORIST GROUPS, THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (IRA) AND THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (INLA); AND

-- IN NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY, REDUCED THE REMISSION OF SENTENCES ALLOWED FOR CONVICTED TERRORISTS FROM ONE-HALF TO ONE-THIRD OF THEIR SENTENCES.

THE LEGISLATION ALSO RENEWED THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DETAIN SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FOR UP TO SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES OR ARRAIGNMENT BEFORE A JUDGE. IN NOVEMBER, THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARED THAT THIS PRACTICE WAS ILLEGAL. THE UK IS EXAMINING STEPS IT MIGHT TAKE TO BRING UK LAWS AND PROCEDURES INTO ACCORD WITH THE COURT'S FINDINGS.

THE RESPONSE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

10. THE UK JUDICIARY IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN WHOLLY SUPPORTIVE OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO BRING TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE. THE UK HOME OFFICE AND FOREIGN OFFICE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE COURTS TO IMPROVE PROCEDURES FOR EXTRADITION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

11. IN FEBRUARY, POLICE ARRESTED A SIKH LIVING IN ENGLAND WHO WAS WANTED ON SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN A 1985 LUGGAGE EXPLOSION AT NARITA AIRPORT IN JAPAN IN WHICH TWO BAGGAGE HANDLERS WERE KILLED. THE LUGGAGE ARRIVED ON A FLIGHT FROM TORONTO AND EXPLODED AT THE SAME TIME THAT AN EXPLOSION DESTROYED AN AIR INDIA JUMBO JET, ALSO FLYING FROM TORONTO, OVER THE OCEAN NEAR IRELAND, KILLING ALL 329 PEOPLE ON BOARD. A UK COURT ORDERED THE MAN EXTRADITED TO CANADA, BUT HE HAS APPEALED. HIS CASE IS PENDING.

END DRAFT TEXT.

PRICE